

Message Text

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SECSTATE WASHDC 9569

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E.O. 201652: N/A

SUBJ: ELLINGTON AFRICAN TOUR

STATE FOR CU

ATTN: IBS COVERAGE DESK AND AFRICAN DIVISION HEINTZEN

PASS IPS AFRICAN BRANCH.

LUSAKA, NOV 25 ... DEPARTURE TIME FROM ZAMBIA CAME TONIGHT (SUNDAY) FOR DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA, WITH MIXED EMOTIONS ON THE PART OF ALL HANDS. THERE WAS DELIGHT AT HAVING VISITED THIS HEARTLAND NATION OF CENTRAL AFRICA -; BUT REGRET THAT THE TOUR WASN'T LONGER.

AS JOE BENJAMIN, FAMOUS BASSIST AND ARRANGER FOR THE BAND, PUT IT: "I'VE COME ATL THIS WAY AND HAVEN'T YET SEEN AN ELEPHANT. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK ON MY NEXT VACATION." THAT FAIRLY WELL EXPRESSED THE VIEWPOINT OF THE ENTIRE TROUPE - THE WISH TO RETURN AND SEE MORE OF THIS FASCINATING REPUBLIC.

THE BAND'S FINAL APPEARANCE WAS A LATE AFTERNOON COMMAND PERFORMANCE AT STATE HOUSE, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF DR. KENNETH KAUNDA, THE PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA.

DR. KAUNDA, IN KINSHASA FOR THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO'S ENTRY INTO OFFICE, WAS UNABLE TO RETURN TO LUSAKA IN TIME FOR THE CONCERT. HOWEVER,

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HIS WIFE, MRS. BETTY KAUNDA WAS PRESENT TO HEAR THE FABULOUS

ELLINGTON VERSION OF AMERICAN JAZZ. ALSO ON HAND TO REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT IN WELCOMING THE DISTINGUISHED GUEST LIST WAS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY, MR. GREY ZULU AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF ZAMBIA, MR. MAINZA CHONA.

THE SPENIAL PROGRAM OPENED WITH THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR JEAN M. WILKOWSKI. FROM THAT POINT ON, DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS MEN TOOK OVER AND ENTHRALLED THE GATHERING ASSEMBLED ON THE STATE HOUSE LAWN.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PERFORMANCE, THE DUKE MADE A PRESENTATION OF A SPECIALLY BOUND COPY OF HIS NEW BOOK "MUSIC IS MY MISTRESS" TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ASKING THAT MR. ZULU TURN THE BOOK OVER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA UPON HIS RETURN.

THE ORCHESTRA WENT DIRECTLY FROM STATE HOUSE TO THE AIRPORT AND A TAKE OFF AT 2135 HOURS SUNDAY NIGHT. ONLY THREE DAYS WERE ALLOTTED TO THE ZAMBIA SCHEDULE, BUT THEY WERE THREE DAYS THAT THIS NATION WILL NEVER FORGET. ITEM. USIS LUSAKA.
LEWIS

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